

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 06145 081102Z

14-11  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 064496

O R 080955Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3137  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: CPRS, VS  
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING SAIGON CONSULAR OFFICE

REF: STATE 106440

FROM LEHMANN

HONG KONG PLEASE PASS TO SAIGON CONSUL GENERAL WALTER BURKE

1. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SOMEONE PROVIDES SUBSTANTIATING EVIDENCE AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED ANY ALLEGATION THAT CONSULAR PERSONNEL - U.S.OR LOCAL - WERE INVOLVED IN BRIBE TAKING IS A PERNICIOUS FALSEHOOD WHICH SHOULD BE REJECTED OUTRIGHT AS AN INSULT TO A DEDICATED STAFF THAT WORKED ITSELF INTO A STATE OF EXHAUSTION OVER A PERIOD OF WEEKS.

2. DURING THE ENTIRE OPERATION NO RUMOR OR SUGGESTION OF BRIBE TAKING BY CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, STORIES OF ENTERPRISING AMERICAN PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO SOLD THEIR SERVICES AS FALSE RELATIVES OR OTHER SPONSORS OF VIETNAMESE. CONSULAR STAFF AT EMBASSY PROPER AND AT TAN SON NHUT PROCESSING LINE DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT SUCH OR SIMILAR FRAUD. ONE MEANS USED FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS TO INITIAL LAST PAGE OF U.S PASSPORT IN ORDER TO PREVENT U.S. SPONSORS FROM ACCOMPANYING VIETNAMESE THROUGH THE PROCESSING

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SYSTEM MORE THAN ONCE.

3. WHILE THE PRINTING OF FALSEHOODS ABOUT VIETNAM IN THE  
AMERICAN PRESS IS NOT PRECISELY A NOVELTY IT MIGHT  
BE VERY USEFUL TO RUN DOWN THE ORIGIN OF THE ALLEGATION CITED  
IN REFTEL. IT COULD WELL BE THAT WE HAVE AT WORK THE SAME  
GROUPS WHICH HAVE FOR SO MANY YEARS SPREAD LIES AND  
DISTORTIONS ABOUT VIETNAM AND TO WHOM THE CURRENT SPECTACLE OF  
MASSES OF PEOPLE TRYING TO ESCAPE COMMUNIST RULE IS, OF COURSE,  
QUITE UNPALATABLE.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, ALLEGATIONS, VISAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MANILA06145  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750161-0848  
**From:** MANILA  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 106440  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING SAIGON CONSULAR OFFICE  
**TAGS:** CPRS, VS  
**To:** STATE  
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